

House of Representatives

File No. 753

General Assembly

February Session, 2014

(Reprint of File No. 631)

Substitute House Bill No. 5489 As Amended by House Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner May 3, 2014

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTEGRITY OF THE BUSINESS REGISTRY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 33-617 of the general statutes is
- 2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July
- 3 1, 2015):
- 4 (a) The Secretary of the State shall charge and collect the following
- 5 fees for filing documents and issuing certificates and remit them to the
- 6 Treasurer for the use of the state: (1) Filing application to reserve,
- 7 register, renew or cancel registration of corporate name, sixty dollars;
- 8 (2) filing transfer of reserved corporate name, sixty dollars; (3) filing
- 9 certificate of incorporation, including appointment of registered agent,
- 10 one hundred dollars; (4) filing change of address of registered agent or
- 11 change of registered agent, fifty dollars; (5) filing notice of resignation
- 12 of registered agent, fifty dollars; (6) filing amendment to certificate of
- incorporation, one hundred dollars; (7) filing restated certificate of
- 14 incorporation, one hundred dollars; (8) filing certificate of merger or

15 share exchange, sixty dollars; (9) filing certificate of correction, one hundred dollars; (10) filing certificate of surrender of special charter 16 17 and adoption of general certificate of incorporation, one hundred 18 dollars; [(11) filing certificate of dissolution, fifty dollars; (12)] (11) 19 filing certificate of revocation of dissolution, fifty dollars; [(13)] (12) 20 filing annual report, one hundred fifty dollars except as otherwise provided in sections 33-953 and 33-954; [(14)] (13) filing application of 21 22 foreign corporation for certificate of authority to transact business in 23 this state and issuing certificate of authority, one hundred dollars; 24 [(15)] (14) filing application of foreign corporation for amended 25 certificate of authority to transact business in this state and issuing 26 amended certificate of authority, one hundred dollars; [(16) filing 27 application for withdrawal of foreign corporation and issuing 28 certificate of withdrawal, one hundred dollars; (17)] (15) filing 29 application for reinstatement, one hundred fifty dollars; [(18)] (16) 30 filing a corrected annual report, one hundred dollars; and [(19)] (17) 31 filing an interim notice of change of director or officer, twenty dollars.

- Sec. 2. Section 33-890 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- 34 (a) The Secretary of the State may effect the administrative 35 dissolution of a corporation as provided in this section.
- 36 (b) Whenever any corporation is more than one year in default of 37 filing its annual report as required by section 33-953, the Secretary of 38 the State may notify such corporation by registered or certified mail 39 addressed to such corporation at its principal office as last shown on 40 his records that under the provisions of this section the corporation is 41 to be administratively dissolved. Unless the corporation, within three 42 months of the mailing of such notice, files such annual report, the 43 Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in his office a certificate of 44 administrative dissolution stating that the delinquent corporation has 45 been administratively dissolved by reason of its default.
- [(b)] (c) Whenever it comes to the attention of the Secretary of the

47 State that a corporation has failed to maintain a registered agent or that 48 such registered agent cannot, with reasonable diligence, be found at 49 the address shown in the records of his office, the Secretary of the State 50 may notify such corporation by registered or certified mail addressed 51 to such corporation at its principal office as last shown on his records 52 that under the provisions of this section the corporation is to be 53 administratively dissolved. Unless the corporation within three 54 months of the mailing of such notice files an appointment of registered 55 agent, the Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in his office a 56 certificate of administrative dissolution stating that the delinquent 57 corporation has been administratively dissolved by reason of its 58 default.

- [(c)] (d) Dissolution shall be effective upon the filing by the Secretary of the State in his office of such certificate of administrative dissolution.
- 62 [(d)] (e) After filing the certificate of administrative dissolution, the 63 Secretary of the State shall: (1) [Send] Mail a copy thereof to the 64 delinquent corporation, [by registered or certified mail,] addressed to 65 such corporation at its principal office as last shown on his records; 66 and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of administrative 67 dissolution to be [published in two successive issues of the 68 Connecticut Law Journal posted on the office of the Secretary of the 69 State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the date on 70 which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of administrative 71 dissolution.
- Sec. 3. Section 33-922 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- (a) A foreign corporation may apply for a certificate of authority to transact business in this state by delivering an application to the Secretary of the State for filing. The application shall set forth: (1) The name of the foreign corporation or, if its name is unavailable for use in this state, a corporate name that satisfies the requirements of section

79 33-925; (2) the name of the state or country under whose law it is 80 incorporated; (3) its date of incorporation and period of duration; (4) 81 the street address of its principal office; (5) the address of its registered 82 office in this state and the name of its registered agent at that office; 83 [and] (6) the electronic mail address, if any, of the corporation; and (7) 84 the names and respective business and residence addresses of the 85 directors and officers of the foreign corporation, except that if good cause is shown, the Secretary of the State may accept business 86 87 addresses in lieu of business and residence addresses of the directors 88 and officers of the corporation. For purposes of this section, a showing of good cause shall include, but not be limited to, a showing that 89 90 public disclosure of the residence addresses of the corporation's 91 directors and officers may expose the personal security of such 92 directors and officers to significant risk.

- 93 (b) The foreign corporation shall deliver with the completed 94 application a certificate of existence, or a document of similar import, 95 duly authenticated by the secretary of the state or other official having 96 custody of corporate records in the state or country under whose law it 97 is incorporated.
- 98 Sec. 4. Section 33-935 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

100 The Secretary of the State may commence a proceeding under 101 section 33-936, as amended by this act, to revoke the certificate of 102 authority of a foreign corporation authorized to transact business in 103 this state if: (1) The foreign corporation has failed to file its annual 104 report with the Secretary of the State; (2) the foreign corporation does 105 not pay within sixty days after they are due any license fees, franchise 106 taxes or penalties imposed by sections 33-600 to 33-998, inclusive, as 107 amended by this act, or other law; [(2)] (3) the foreign corporation is without a registered agent or registered office in this state for sixty 108 109 days or more; [(3)] (4) the foreign corporation does not inform the 110 Secretary of the State under section 33-927 or 33-928 that its registered 111 agent or registered office has changed, that its registered agent has

112 resigned or that its registered office has been discontinued within sixty 113 days of the change, resignation or discontinuance; [(4)] (5) an 114 incorporator, director, officer or agent of the foreign corporation 115 signed a document he knew was false in any material respect with 116 intent that the document be delivered to the Secretary of the State for filing; [(5)] or (6) the Secretary of the State receives a duly 117 118 authenticated certificate from the Secretary of the State or other official 119 having custody of corporate records in the state or country under 120 whose law the foreign corporation is incorporated stating that it has 121 been dissolved or disappeared as the result of a merger.

- Sec. 5. Section 33-936 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- 124 (a) If the Secretary of the State determines that one or more grounds 125 exist under section 33-935, as amended by this act, for revocation of a 126 certificate of authority, he shall [serve the foreign corporation with 127 written notice of his determination under section 33-929] notify the 128 foreign corporation by registered or certified mail addressed to such foreign corporation at its principal office as last shown on his records 129 130 that under the provisions of this section the foreign corporation's 131 certificate of authority is to be revoked.
- 132 (b) If the foreign corporation does not correct each ground for 133 revocation or demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the 134 Secretary of the State that each ground determined by the Secretary of 135 the State does not exist, within [sixty] <u>ninety</u> days after [service] 136 mailing of the notice, [is effective under section 33-929,] the Secretary 137 of the State may revoke the foreign corporation's certificate of 138 authority by signing a certificate of revocation that recites the ground 139 or grounds for revocation and its effective date. The Secretary of the 140 State shall file the original of the certificate and [serve a copy on the 141 foreign corporation under section 33-929] shall: (1) Mail a copy thereof 142 to the delinquent corporation, addressed to such corporation at its 143 principal office as last shown on his records; and (2) cause notice of the 144 filing to be posted on the office of the Secretary of the State's Internet

web site for a period of sixty days following the date on which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of revocation.

- 147 (c) The authority of a foreign corporation to transact business in this 148 state ceases on the date shown on the certificate revoking its certificate 149 of authority.
- (d) The Secretary of the State's revocation of a foreign corporation's certificate of authority appoints the Secretary of the State the foreign corporation's agent for service of process in any proceeding based on a cause of action which arose during the time the foreign corporation was authorized to transact business in this state. Service of process on the Secretary of the State as provided in section 33-929 is service on the foreign corporation.
- (e) Revocation of a foreign corporation's certificate of authority does not terminate the authority of the registered agent of the corporation.
- Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 33-1013 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2015):
- 162 (a) The Secretary of the State shall charge and collect the following 163 fees for filing documents and issuing certificates and remit them to the 164 Treasurer for the use of the state: (1) Filing application to reserve, 165 register, renew or cancel registration of corporate name, sixty dollars; 166 (2) filing transfer of reserved corporate name, sixty dollars; (3) filing a 167 certificate of incorporation, including appointment of registered agent, 168 twenty dollars; (4) filing change of address of registered agent or 169 change of registered agent, twenty dollars; (5) filing notice of 170 resignation of registered agent in duplicate, twenty dollars; (6) filing 171 certificate of amendment to certificate of incorporation, twenty dollars; 172 (7) filing restated certificate of incorporation, twenty dollars; (8) filing 173 certificate of merger, twenty dollars; (9) filing certificate of correction, 174 twenty dollars; (10) filing certificate of surrender of special charter and 175 adoption of certificate of incorporation, twenty dollars; [(11) filing 176 certificate of dissolution, twenty dollars; (12)] (11) filing certificate of

177 revocation of dissolution, twenty dollars; [(13)] (12) filing annual report, fifty dollars; [(14)] (13) filing application of foreign corporation 178 179 for certificate of authority to conduct affairs in this state and issuing 180 certificate of authority, forty dollars; [(15)] (14) filing application of 181 foreign corporation for amended certificate of authority to conduct 182 affairs in this state and issuing amended certificate of authority, forty 183 dollars; [(16) filing application for withdrawal of foreign corporation 184 and issuing certificate of withdrawal, forty dollars; (17)] (15) filing certificate of reinstatement, including appointment of registered agent, 185 186 one hundred ten dollars; [(18)] (16) filing a corrected annual report, fifty dollars; and [(19)] (17) filing an interim notice of change of 187 188 director or officer, twenty dollars.

- Sec. 7. Section 33-1181 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
 - (a) The Secretary of the State may effect the administrative dissolution of a corporation as provided in this section.
- 193 (b) Whenever any corporation is more than two years in default of 194 filing its annual report as required by section 33-1243, the Secretary of 195 the State may notify such corporation by registered or certified mail 196 addressed to such corporation at its principal office as last shown on 197 his records that under the provisions of this section the corporation is 198 to be administratively dissolved. Unless the corporation, within three 199 months of the mailing of such notice, files such annual report, the 200 Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in his office a certificate of 201 administrative dissolution stating that the delinquent corporation has 202 been administratively dissolved by reason of its default.
 - [(b)] (c) Whenever it comes to the attention of the Secretary of the State that a corporation has failed to maintain a registered agent or that such registered agent cannot, with reasonable diligence, be found at the address shown in the records of his office, the Secretary of the State may notify such corporation by registered or certified mail addressed to such corporation at its principal office as last shown on his records

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that under the provisions of this section the corporation is to be administratively dissolved. Unless the corporation within three months of the mailing of such notice files an appointment of registered agent, the Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in his office a certificate of administrative dissolution stating that the delinquent corporation has been administratively dissolved by reason of its default.

- [(c)] (d) Dissolution shall be effective upon the filing by the Secretary of the State in his office of such certificate of administrative dissolution.
- 219 [(d)] (e) After filing the certificate of administrative dissolution, the 220 Secretary of the State shall: (1) [Send] Mail a copy thereof to the 221 delinquent corporation, [by registered or certified mail,] addressed to 222 such corporation at its principal office as last shown on his records, 223 and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of administrative 224 dissolution [to be published in two successive issues of the 225 Connecticut Law Journal to be posted on the office of the Secretary of 226 the State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the 227 date on which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of 228 administrative dissolution.
- Sec. 8. Section 33-1212 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- 231 (a) A foreign corporation may apply for a certificate of authority to 232 conduct affairs in this state by delivering an application to the 233 Secretary of the State for filing. The application shall set forth: (1) The 234 name of the foreign corporation or, if its name is unavailable for use in 235 this state, a corporate name that satisfies the requirements of section 236 33-1215; (2) the name of the state or country under whose law it is 237 incorporated; (3) its date of incorporation and period of duration; (4) 238 the street address of its principal office; (5) the address of its registered 239 office in this state and the name of its registered agent at that office; 240 [and] (6) the electronic mail address, if any, of the corporation; and (7)

241 the names and respective business and residence addresses of the 242 directors and officers of the foreign corporation, except that if good 243 cause is shown, the Secretary of the State may accept business 244 addresses in lieu of business and residence addresses of the directors 245 and officers of the corporation. For purposes of this section, a showing 246 of good cause shall include, but not be limited to, a showing that 247 public disclosure of the residence addresses of the corporation's 248 directors and officers may expose the personal security of such 249 directors and officers to significant risk.

- (b) The foreign corporation shall deliver with the completed application a certificate of existence, or a document of similar import, duly authenticated by the secretary of the state or other official having custody of corporate records in the state or country under whose law it is incorporated.
- Sec. 9. Section 33-1225 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

The Secretary of the State may commence a proceeding under section 33-1226, as amended by this act, to revoke the certificate of authority of a foreign corporation authorized to conduct affairs in this state if: (1) The foreign corporation [does not deliver] has failed to file its annual report [to] with the Secretary of the State; [within sixty days after it is due; [(2) the foreign corporation does not pay within sixty days after they are due any license fees, franchise taxes or penalties imposed by sections 33-1000 to 33-1290, inclusive, as amended by this act, or other law; (3) the foreign corporation is without a registered agent or registered office in this state for sixty days or more; (4) the foreign corporation does not inform the Secretary of the State under section 33-1217 or 33-1218 that its registered agent or registered office has changed, that its registered agent has resigned or that its registered office has been discontinued within sixty days of the change, resignation or discontinuance; (5) an incorporator, director, officer or agent of the foreign corporation signed a document he knew was false in any material respect with intent that the document be delivered to

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the Secretary of the State for filing; or (6) the Secretary of the State receives a duly authenticated certificate from the Secretary of the State or other official having custody of corporate records in the state or country under whose law the foreign corporation is incorporated stating that it has been dissolved or disappeared as the result of a merger.

Sec. 10. Section 33-1226 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

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- (a) If the Secretary of the State determines that one or more grounds exist under section 33-1225, as amended by this act, for revocation of a certificate of authority, he shall [serve the foreign corporation with written notice of his determination under section 33-1219] notify such foreign corporation by registered or certified mail addressed to such foreign corporation at its principal office as last shown on his records that under the provisions of this section the foreign corporation's certificate of authority is to be revoked.
 - (b) If the foreign corporation does not correct each ground for revocation or demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Secretary of the State that each ground determined by the Secretary of the State does not exist, within [sixty] ninety days after [service] mailing of the notice, [is effective under section 33-1219,] the Secretary of the State may revoke the foreign corporation's certificate of authority by signing a certificate of revocation that recites the ground or grounds for revocation and its effective date. The Secretary of the State shall file the original of the certificate and [serve a copy on the foreign corporation under section 33-1219] shall: (1) Mail a copy thereof to the delinquent foreign corporation, addressed to such foreign corporation at its principal office as last shown on his records; and (2) cause notice of the filing to be posted on the office of the Secretary of the State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the date on which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of revocation.

306 (c) The authority of a foreign corporation to conduct affairs in this 307 state ceases on the date shown on the certificate revoking its certificate 308 of authority.

- (d) The Secretary of the State's revocation of a foreign corporation's certificate of authority appoints the Secretary of the State the foreign corporation's agent for service of process in any proceeding based on a cause of action which arose during the time the foreign corporation was authorized to conduct affairs in this state. Service of process on the Secretary of the State as provided in section 33-1219 is service on the foreign corporation.
- 316 (e) Revocation of a foreign corporation's certificate of authority does 317 not terminate the authority of the registered agent of the corporation.
- Sec. 11. Section 34-10 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- 320 (a) In order to form a limited partnership a certificate of limited 321 partnership must be executed as provided in section 34-10a and the 322 certificate shall set forth:
- (1) The name of the limited partnership and the address of the office required to be maintained by section 34-13b;
- 325 (2) The name and address of the agent for service of process 326 required to be maintained by section 34-13b;
- 327 (3) The name and business address of each general partner;
- 328 (4) The latest date upon which the limited partnership is to dissolve; 329 [and]
- 330 (5) Any other matters the partners determine to include therein; and
- 331 (6) The electronic mail address, if any, of the limited partnership.
- (b) A limited partnership is formed at the time of the filing of the

333 certificate of limited partnership in the office of the Secretary of the 334 State or at any later time specified in the certificate of limited 335 partnership if, in either case, there has been substantial compliance 336 with the requirements of this section.

- Sec. 12. Section 34-32b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- (a) The Secretary of the State may effect the cancellation of a limited partnership by forfeiture as provided in this section.
- 341 (b) Whenever any limited partnership is more than one year in 342 default of filing its annual report as required by section 34-13e, the 343 Secretary of the State may notify such limited partnership by 344 registered or certified mail addressed to such limited partnership at its 345 address as last shown on his records that under the provisions of this 346 section the limited partnership's rights and powers are prima facie 347 forfeited. Unless the limited partnership within three months of the 348 mailing of such notice files such annual report, the Secretary of the 349 State shall prepare and file in his office a certificate of cancellation by 350 forfeiture stating that the delinquent limited partnership's certificate 351 has been cancelled by forfeiture by reason of its default.

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[(b)] (c) Whenever it comes to the attention of the Secretary of the State that a limited partnership has failed to maintain a statutory agent for service, the Secretary of the State may notify such limited partnership by registered or certified mail [or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing] addressed to such limited partnership at its address as last shown on his records that under the provisions of this section the limited partnership's rights and powers are prima facie forfeited. Unless the limited partnership within three months of the mailing of such notice files an appointment of statutory agent for service, the Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in his office a certificate of cancellation by forfeiture stating that the delinquent limited partnership's certificate has been cancelled by forfeiture by reason of its default.

[(c)] (d) Cancellation shall be effective upon the filing by the Secretary of the State in his office of such certificate of cancellation by forfeiture.

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[(d)] (e) After filing the certificate of cancellation by forfeiture, the Secretary of the State shall: (1) [Send] Mail a certified copy thereof to the delinquent limited partnership [, by registered or certified mail or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing,] at its address as last shown on his records; and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of cancellation by forfeiture [to be published in two successive issues of the Connecticut Law Journal] to be posted on the office of the Secretary of the State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the date on which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of cancellation by forfeiture.

Sec. 13. Section 34-38g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

Before transacting business in this state, a foreign limited partnership shall register with the Secretary of the State. In order to register, a foreign limited partnership shall submit to the Secretary of the State a signed copy of the application for registration as a foreign limited partnership, signed and sworn to by a general partner and setting forth: (1) The name of the foreign limited partnership and, if different, the name under which it proposes to register and transact business in the state; (2) the state and date of its formation; (3) the general character of the business it proposes to transact in this state; (4) the name and address of the agent in this state for service of process on the foreign limited partnership required to be maintained by section 34-38p and an acceptance of such appointment signed by the agent appointed if other than the Secretary of the State; (5) the address of the office required to be maintained in the state of its organization by the laws of that state, or, if not so required, of the principal office of the foreign limited partnership; (6) the name and business address of each general partner; (7) the address of the office at which is kept a list of the names and addresses of the limited partners and their capital

contributions, together with an undertaking by the foreign limited partnership to keep those records until the foreign limited partnership registration in this state is cancelled or withdrawn; [and] (8) the date the foreign limited partnership commenced transacting business in this state; and (9) the electronic mail address, if any, of the foreign limited partnership.

- Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 34-38n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 406 1, 2015):
- 407 (a) The Secretary of the State shall receive, for filing any document 408 or certificate required to be filed under sections 34-10, as amended by 409 this act, 34-13a, 34-13e, 34-32, 34-32a, 34-32c, 34-38g, as amended by 410 this act, and 34-38s, the following fees: (1) For reservation or 411 cancellation of reservation of name, sixty dollars; (2) for a certificate of 412 limited partnership and appointment of statutory agent, one hundred 413 twenty dollars; (3) for a certificate of amendment, one hundred twenty 414 dollars; (4) for a certificate of merger or consolidation, sixty dollars; [(5) 415 for a certificate of cancellation, sixty dollars; (6)] (5) for a certificate of 416 registration, one hundred twenty dollars; [(7)] (6) for a change of agent 417 or change of address of agent, twenty dollars; [(8)] (7) for a certificate 418 of reinstatement, one hundred twenty dollars; and [(9)] (8) for an 419 annual report, twenty dollars.
- Sec. 15. Section 34-38u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- 422 (a) The certificate of registration of a foreign limited partnership to 423 transact business in this state may be revoked by the Secretary of the 424 State upon the conditions provided in this section when: (1) [Any] The 425 foreign limited partnership has failed to file its annual report with the 426 Secretary of the State; (2) any wilful misrepresentation has been made 427 of any material matter in any application, report, affidavit or other 428 document, submitted by such foreign limited partnership pursuant to 429 this chapter; [(2)] (3) the foreign limited partnership is exceeding the

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authority conferred upon it by this chapter; or [(3)] (4) the foreign limited partnership is without an agent upon whom process may be served in this state for sixty days or more.

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- (b) On the happening of the events set out in subdivision (1), (2), [or] (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of the State shall give not less than twenty days' written notice to the foreign limited partnership that he intends to revoke the certificate of registration of such foreign limited partnership for one of said causes, specifying the same. Such notice shall be given by registered or certified mail [or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing] addressed to the foreign limited partnership at its address as last shown on the records of the Secretary of the State. If, before expiration of the time set forth in such notice, the foreign limited partnership establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the State that the stated cause for the revocation of its certificate of registration did not exist at the time the notice was mailed or, if it did exist at said time, has been cured, the Secretary of the State shall take no further action. Otherwise, on the expiration of the time stated in the notice, he shall revoke the certificate of registration of such foreign limited partnership to transact business in this state.
- 450 (c) Upon revoking the certificate of registration of any foreign 451 limited partnership, the Secretary of the State shall file a certificate of 452 revocation in his office and [mail] shall: (1) Mail a copy thereof to such 453 foreign limited partnership at its address as last shown on his records; 454 and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of revocation to be 455 posted on the office of the Secretary of the State's Internet web site for 456 a period of sixty days following the date on which the Secretary of the 457 State files the certificate of revocation. The filing of such certificate of 458 revocation shall cause the authority of a foreign limited partnership to 459 transact business in this state to cease. Notwithstanding the filing of 460 the certificate of revocation, the appointment by a foreign limited 461 partnership of an attorney upon whom process may be served shall 462 continue in force as long as any liability remains outstanding against 463 the foreign limited partnership in this state.

Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 34-112 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2015):

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- (a) Fees for filing documents and issuing certificates: (1) Filing application to reserve a limited liability company name or to cancel a reserved limited liability company name, sixty dollars; (2) filing transfer of reserved limited liability company name, sixty dollars; (3) filing articles of organization, including appointment of statutory agent, one hundred twenty dollars; (4) filing change of address of statutory agent or change of statutory agent, fifty dollars; (5) filing notice of resignation of statutory agent in duplicate, fifty dollars; (6) filing amendment to articles of organization, one hundred twenty dollars; (7) filing restated articles of organization, one hundred twenty dollars; (8) filing articles of merger or consolidation, sixty dollars; [(9) filing articles of dissolution by resolution, fifty dollars; (10) filing articles of dissolution by expiration, fifty dollars; (11) filing judicial decree of dissolution, fifty dollars; (12)] (9) filing certificate of reinstatement, one hundred twenty dollars; [(13)] (10) filing application by a foreign limited liability company for certificate of registration to transact business in this state and issuing certificate of registration, one hundred twenty dollars; [(14)] (11) filing application of foreign limited liability company for amended certificate of registration to transact business in this state and issuing amended certificate of registration, one hundred twenty dollars; [(15) filing application for withdrawal of foreign limited liability company and issuing certificate of withdrawal, one hundred twenty dollars; (16)] (12) filing an annual report, twenty dollars; and [(17)] (13) filing an interim notice of change of manager or member, twenty dollars.
- Sec. 17. Section 34-121 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- The articles of organization of a limited liability company formed under sections 34-100 to 34-242, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, shall set forth: (1) A name for the limited liability company that satisfies the

requirements of section 34-102; (2) if management of the limited liability company is vested in a manager or managers, a statement to that effect; (3) the nature of the business to be transacted or the purposes to be promoted or carried out, except that it shall be sufficient to state, either alone or with other business or purposes, that the purpose of the limited liability company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be formed under sections 34-100 to 34-242, inclusive, as amended by this act, and by such statement all lawful acts and activities shall be within the purposes of the limited liability company, except for express limitations, if any; (4) the principal office address of the limited liability company; (5) an appointment of a statutory agent for service of process as required by section 34-104; [and] (6) the electronic mail address, if any, of the limited liability company; and (7) any other matter the organizer or organizers determine to include.

- Sec. 18. Section 34-215 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- 514 (a) The Secretary of the State may effect the dissolution of a limited 515 liability company by forfeiture as provided in this section.
 - (b) Whenever it comes to the attention of the Secretary of the State that a limited liability company is more than one year in default of filing its annual report as required by section 34-106, the Secretary of the State may notify such limited liability company by registered or certified mail addressed to such limited liability company at its principal office as last shown on his records that under the provisions of this section the limited liability company's rights and powers are prima facie forfeited. Unless the limited liability company within three months of the mailing of such notice files such annual report, the Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in his office a certificate of dissolution by forfeiture stating that the delinquent limited liability company has been dissolved by forfeiture by reason of its default.
- [(b)] (c) Whenever it comes to the attention of the Secretary of the

529 State that a limited liability company has failed to maintain a statutory 530 agent for service, the Secretary of the State may notify such limited 531 liability company by registered or certified mail [or mail evidenced by 532 a certificate of mailing addressed to such limited liability company at 533 its principal office as last shown on his records that under the 534 provisions of this section the limited liability company's rights and 535 powers are prima facie forfeited. Unless the limited liability company 536 within three months of the mailing of such notice files an appointment 537 of statutory agent for service, the Secretary of the State shall prepare 538 and file in his office a certificate of dissolution by forfeiture stating that 539 the delinquent limited liability company has been dissolved by 540 forfeiture by reason of its default.

[(c)] (d) Dissolution shall be effective upon the filing by the Secretary of the State in his office of such certificate of dissolution by forfeiture.

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- 544 [(d)] (e) After filing the certificate of dissolution by forfeiture, the 545 Secretary of the State shall: (1) [Send] Mail a certified copy thereof to 546 the delinquent limited liability company [, by registered or certified 547 mail or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing addressed to such 548 limited liability company at its principal office as last shown on his 549 records; and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of 550 dissolution by forfeiture [to be published in two successive issues of 551 the Connecticut Law Journal] to be posted on the office of the Secretary 552 of the State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the 553 date on which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of 554 dissolution by forfeiture.
- Sec. 19. Section 34-223 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- Before transacting business in this state, a foreign limited liability company shall register with the Secretary of the State. In order to register, a foreign limited liability company shall submit to the Secretary of the State an original signed copy of an application for

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registration as a foreign limited liability company executed by a person with authority to do so under the laws of the state or other jurisdiction of its formation. The application shall set forth: (1) The name of the foreign limited liability company and, if different, the name under which it proposes to transact business in this state; (2) the state or other jurisdiction where formed, and date of its organization; (3) the name and address of the agent in this state for service of process on the foreign limited liability company required to be maintained by section 34-224 and an acceptance of such appointment signed by the agent appointed if other than the Secretary of the State; (4) the address of the office required to be maintained in the state or other jurisdiction of its organization by the laws of that state or jurisdiction or, if not so required, of the principal office of the foreign limited liability company; (5) a representation that the foreign limited liability company is a "foreign limited liability company", as defined in section 34-101; (6) the character of the business which the foreign limited liability company intends to transact in this state; [and] (7) the name and respective business and residence addresses of a manager or a member of the foreign limited liability company, except that, if good cause is shown, the Secretary of the State may accept a business address in lieu of business and residence addresses of such manager or member. For purposes of [subdivision (7) of this section] this subdivision, a showing of good cause shall include, but not be limited to, a showing that public disclosure of the residence address of the manager or member of the foreign limited liability company may expose the personal security of such manager or member to significant risk; and (8) the electronic mail address, if any, of the foreign limited liability company.

Sec. 20. Section 34-232 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

(a) The certificate of registration of a foreign limited liability company to transact business in this state may be revoked by the Secretary of the State upon the conditions provided in this section when: (1) [A] The foreign limited liability company has failed to file its

annual report with the Secretary of the State; (2) a wilful misrepresentation has been made of any material matter in any application, report, affidavit or other document, submitted by such foreign limited liability company pursuant to sections 34-100 to 34-242, inclusive, as amended by this act; [(2)] (3) the foreign limited liability company is exceeding the authority conferred upon it by said sections; or [(3)] (4) the foreign limited liability company is without an agent upon whom process may be served in this state for sixty days or more.

- (b) On the happening of the events set out in subdivision (1), (2), [or] (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of the State shall give not less than twenty days written notice to the foreign limited liability company that said secretary intends to revoke the certificate of registration of such foreign limited liability company for one of said causes, specifying the same. Such notice shall be given by registered or certified mail [or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing addressed to the foreign limited liability company at its address as last shown on the records of the Secretary of the State. If, before expiration of the time set forth in the notice, the foreign limited liability company establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the State that the stated cause for the revocation of its certificate of registration did not exist at the time the notice was mailed or, if it did exist at said time, has been cured, the Secretary of the State shall take no further action. Otherwise, on the expiration of the time stated in the notice, said [secretary] Secretary shall revoke the certificate of registration of such foreign limited liability company to transact business in this state.
- (c) Upon revoking the certificate of registration of any foreign 622 limited liability company, the Secretary of the State shall file a 623 certificate of revocation in his office and [mail] shall: (1) Mail a copy 624 thereof to such foreign limited liability company at its address as last 625 shown on said [secretary's] Secretary's records; and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of revocation to be posted on the office of 626 627 the Secretary of the State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the date on which the Secretary of the State files the 628

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certificate of revocation. The filing of such certificate of revocation shall cause the authority of a foreign limited liability company to transact business in this state to cease. Notwithstanding the filing of the certificate of revocation, the appointment by a foreign limited liability company of an attorney upon whom process may be served shall continue in force as long as any liability remains outstanding against the foreign limited liability company in this state.

- Sec. 21. Section 34-413 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):
- The Secretary of the State shall charge and collect the following fees and remit them to the Treasurer for the use of the state:
- 640 (a) Fees for filing documents and processing certificates: (1) Filing 641 application to reserve a registered limited liability partnership name or 642 to cancel a reserved limited liability partnership name, sixty dollars; (2) 643 filing transfer of reserved registered limited liability partnership name, 644 sixty dollars; (3) filing change of address of statutory agent or change 645 of statutory agent, fifty dollars; (4) filing certificate of limited liability 646 partnership, one hundred twenty dollars; (5) filing amendment to 647 certificate of limited liability partnership, one hundred twenty dollars; 648 [(6) filing renunciation of status report, fifty dollars; (7)] (6) filing 649 certificate of authority to transact business in this state, including 650 appointment of statutory agent, one hundred twenty dollars; [(8)] (7) 651 filing amendment to certificate of authority to transact business in this 652 state, one hundred twenty dollars; [(9) filing withdrawal of certificate 653 of authority, one hundred twenty dollars; (10)] (8) filing an annual report, twenty dollars; [and (11)] (9) filing statement of merger, sixty 654 655 dollars; and (10) filing certificate of reinstatement, one hundred twenty 656 dollars.
 - (b) Miscellaneous charges: (1) For preparing and furnishing a copy of any document, instrument or paper filed or recorded relating to a registered limited liability partnership or foreign registered limited liability partnership: For each copy of each such document thereof

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regardless of the number of pages, forty dollars; for affixing his certification thereto, fifteen dollars; (2) for the issuance of a certification 663 of legal existence of a registered limited liability partnership, forty 664 dollars; (3) for the issuance of a certificate of legal existence which certificate may reflect any and all changes of registered limited liability partnership names and the dates of filing thereof, eighty dollars; (4) for 667 the issuance of a certificate of legal existence reflecting amendments and the date or dates of filing thereof, one hundred twenty dollars; and 669 (5) for other services for which fees are not provided by the general 670 statutes, the Secretary of the State may charge such fees as will in his judgment cover the cost of the services provided.

- Sec. 22. Section 34-419 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
- (a) To become a registered limited liability partnership, a partnership shall file a certificate of limited liability partnership with the Secretary of the State, stating the name of the partnership, which shall conform to the requirements of section 34-406; the address of its principal office; if the partnership's principal office is not located in this state, the address of a registered office and the name and address of a registered agent for service of process in this state, which the partnership will be required to maintain under section 34-408; a brief statement of the business in which the partnership engages; the electronic mail address, if any, of the registered limited liability partnership; any other matters the partnership may determine to include; and that the partnership thereby applies for status as a registered limited liability partnership.
 - (b) The status of a partnership as a registered limited liability partnership, and the liability of the partners for debts, obligations and liabilities of or chargeable to the partnership, shall not be affected by errors or subsequent changes in the information stated in a certificate of limited liability partnership filed under this section or a report filed under section 34-420.

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Sec. 23. Section 34-422 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

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- (a) The Secretary of the State may effect the revocation of a registered limited liability partnership's certificate of registered limited liability partnership as provided in this section.
- (b) Whenever any registered limited liability partnership is more than [three months] one year in default of filing its annual report, the Secretary of the State [shall] <u>may</u> notify such registered limited liability partnership by registered or certified mail [or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing addressed to such registered limited liability partnership at its principal office as last shown in the records of said [secretary] Secretary that under the provisions of this section the registered limited liability partnership's status as a registered limited liability partnership is [in default and will be subject to revocation after three months from the date of mailing] to be revoked by reason of its default. Unless within three months after the mailing of such notice the registered limited liability partnership files a report made out and verified in all respects as the annual report of such registered limited liability partnership, the Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in the office of said [secretary] Secretary a certificate of revocation by forfeiture stating that the status of the registered limited liability partnership as a registered limited liability partnership has been revoked by reason of its default. The status of a registered limited liability partnership, including the liability of partners for debts, obligations and liabilities of or chargeable to the partnership, is retained until expressly revoked by the Secretary of the State. Revocation of the status of a registered limited liability partnership shall not affect the status of said partnership or the liability of the partners thereof with regard to events, acts or omissions occurring prior to the date of revocation.
- (c) Whenever it comes to the attention of the Secretary of the State that a registered limited liability partnership has failed to maintain a statutory agent for service, the Secretary of the State may notify such

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registered limited liability partnership by registered or certified mail [or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing] addressed to such registered limited liability partnership at its principal office as last shown on his records that under the provisions of this section the registered limited liability partnership's rights and powers are in default. Unless the registered limited liability partnership within three months of the mailing of such notice files an appointment of statutory agent for service, the Secretary of the State shall prepare and file in his office a certificate of revocation by forfeiture stating that the status of the registered limited liability partnership as a registered limited liability partnership has been revoked by reason of its default. The status of a registered limited liability partnership, including the liability of partners for debts, obligations and liabilities of or chargeable to the partnership, is retained until expressly revoked by the Secretary of the State. Revocation of the status of a registered limited liability partnership shall not affect the status of said partnership or the liabilities of the partners thereof with regard to events, acts or omissions occurring prior to the date of revocation.

- (d) Revocation shall be effective upon the filing by the Secretary of the State in his office of such certificate of revocation.
- (e) After filing the certificate of revocation, the Secretary of the State shall: (1) [Send] Mail a certified copy thereof to the delinquent registered limited liability partnership [, by registered or certified mail or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing] addressed to such registered limited liability partnership at its principal office as last shown on his records; and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of revocation to be [published in two successive issues of the Connecticut Law Journal] posted on the office of the Secretary of the State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the date on which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of revocation.
- Sec. 24. Section 34-429 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

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Before transacting business in this state, a foreign registered limited liability partnership shall file a certificate of authority with the Secretary of the State executed by a person with authority to do so under the laws of the state or other jurisdiction where it is registered as a registered limited liability partnership. The certificate of authority shall set forth: (1) The name of the partnership and, if different, the name under which it proposes to transact business in this state, either of which shall conform to the requirements of section 34-406; (2) the state or other jurisdiction where it is registered as a registered limited liability partnership and the date of its registration; (3) the name and address of the agent in this state for service of process required to be maintained by section 34-408 and an acceptance of such appointment signed by the agent appointed; (4) the address of the office required to be maintained in the state or other jurisdiction of its organization by the laws of that state or jurisdiction or, if not so required, of the principal office of the partnership; (5) a representation that the partnership is a "foreign registered limited liability partnership" as defined in section 34-301; (6) a brief statement of the business in which the partnership engages; [and] (7) the electronic mail address, if any, of the foreign registered limited liability partnership; and (8) any other matters the partnership may determine to include.

- Sec. 25. Section 34-433 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):
 - (a) The certificate of authority of a foreign registered limited liability partnership to transact business in this state may be revoked by the Secretary of the State upon the conditions provided in this section when: (1) The foreign registered limited liability partnership has failed to file its annual report with the Secretary of the State; or (2) a wilful misrepresentation has been made of any material matter in any application, report, affidavit or other document, submitted by such foreign registered limited liability partnership pursuant to sections 34-300 to 34-434, inclusive, as amended by this act.
- 790 (b) (1) Upon the happening of the events set out in subdivision (1) of

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subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of the State may revoke the certificate of authority of such foreign registered limited liability partnership to transact business in this state. (2) Upon determining to revoke the certificate of authority of a foreign registered limited liability partnership the Secretary of the State shall give not less than thirty days' written notice to the foreign registered limited liability partnership that said [secretary] Secretary intends to revoke the certificate of authority of such foreign registered limited liability partnership for one of said causes, specifying the same. Such notice shall be given by registered or certified mail [or mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing] addressed to the foreign registered limited liability partnership at its address as last shown on the records of the Secretary of the State. If, before expiration of the time set forth in the notice, the foreign registered limited liability partnership establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the State that the stated cause for the revocation of its certificate of authority did not exist at the time the notice was mailed or, if it did exist at said time, has been cured, the Secretary of the State shall take no further action. Otherwise, on the expiration of the time stated in the notice, said [secretary] Secretary shall revoke the certificate of authority of such foreign registered limited liability partnership to transact business in this state.

(c) Upon revoking the certificate of authority of any foreign registered limited liability partnership, the Secretary of the State shall file a certificate of revocation in his office and [mail] shall: (1) Mail a copy thereof to such foreign registered limited liability partnership at its address as last shown on said [secretary's] Secretary's records; and (2) cause notice of the filing of such certificate of revocation to be posted on the office of the Secretary of the State's Internet web site for a period of sixty days following the date on which the Secretary of the State files the certificate of revocation. The filing of such certificate shall cause the authority of a foreign registered limited liability partnership to transact business in this state to cease. Notwithstanding the filing of the certificate of revocation, the appointment by a foreign registered limited liability partnership of an attorney upon whom

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process may be served shall continue in force as long as any liability remains outstanding against the partnership in this state.

- (d) The authority to transact business in this state is retained until expressly revoked by the Secretary of the State. Revocation of the authority of a foreign registered limited liability partnership to transact business in this state shall not affect the status of said partnership in this state under subsection (4) of section 34-400, or the validity of the acts of said partnership occurring prior to the effective date of revocation.
- Sec. 26. Section 34-509 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):
- 836 (a) The Secretary of the State shall charge and collect the following 837 fees and remit them to the Treasurer for the use of the state: (1) For 838 filing of an application for reservation of name, and application for 839 renewal of reservation, or notice of transfer or cancellation of 840 reservation pursuant to section 34-506, sixty dollars; (2) for filing of a 841 certificate of trust, a certificate of amendment [,] or a restated certificate 842 of trust, [or a certificate of cancellation,] one hundred twenty dollars; 843 (3) for preparing and furnishing a copy of any certificate filed relating 844 to a statutory trust: For each copy of each such document thereof 845 regardless of the number of pages, forty dollars; for affixing his 846 certification thereto, fifteen dollars; (4) for preparing and furnishing a 847 certificate of existence or authorization, forty dollars; (5) for preparing 848 and furnishing a certificate of existence or authorization reflecting any 849 and all changes of name and the date or dates of filing thereof, eighty 850 dollars; (6) for filing of a certificate of merger or consolidation, sixty 851 dollars; and (7) for other services for which fees are not provided by 852 the general statutes, the Secretary of the State may charge such fees as 853 will in his judgment cover the cost of the services provided.
 - (b) The tax imposed under chapter 219 shall not be imposed upon any transaction for which a fee is charged under sections 34-500 to 34-547, inclusive, as amended by this act.

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Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2015*) (a) At any time after revocation of registered limited liability partnership status pursuant to section 34-422 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, such status may be reinstated as provided in this section.

- (b) If the name of the registered limited liability partnership is no longer available, such name shall, simultaneously with reinstatement, be changed to an available name by amendment of the certificate of limited liability partnership.
- (c) A certificate of reinstatement conforming, with adaptations that are appropriate, to the content requirements of a certificate of limited liability partnership shall be executed and filed with the office of the Secretary of the State pursuant to sections 34-410 and 34-411 of the general statutes.
- (d) A certificate of reinstatement shall be accompanied by: (1) Payment of all penalties and forfeitures incurred by the limited liability partnership and a reinstatement fee as provided in section 34-413 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; (2) an annual report for the current year; and (3) an appointment of statutory agent for service, if required by section 34-408 of the general statutes.
 - (e) Upon the filing of the certificate of reinstatement with the Secretary of the State, reinstatement shall be effective, the status of the partnership as a limited liability partnership shall commence and such limited liability partnership shall be revested with its rights and powers under sections 34-300 to 34-434, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following					
sections:					
Section 1	July 1, 2015	33-617(a)			
Sec. 2	January 1, 2015	33-890			
Sec. 3	January 1, 2015	33-922			
Sec. 4	January 1, 2015	33-935			

Sec. 5	January 1, 2015	33-936
Sec. 6	July 1, 2015	33-1013(a)
Sec. 7	January 1, 2015	33-1181
Sec. 8	January 1, 2015	33-1212
Sec. 9	January 1, 2015	33-1225
Sec. 10	January 1, 2015	33-1226
Sec. 11	January 1, 2015	34-10
Sec. 12	January 1, 2015	34-32b
Sec. 13	January 1, 2015	34-38g
Sec. 14	July 1, 2015	34-38n(a)
Sec. 15	January 1, 2015	34-38u
Sec. 16	July 1, 2015	34-112(a)
Sec. 17	January 1, 2015	34-121
Sec. 18	January 1, 2015	34-215
Sec. 19	January 1, 2015	34-223
Sec. 20	January 1, 2015	34-232
Sec. 21	July 1, 2015	34-413
Sec. 22	January 1, 2015	34-419
Sec. 23	January 1, 2015	34-422
Sec. 24	January 1, 2015	34-429
Sec. 25	January 1, 2015	34-433
Sec. 26	July 1, 2015	34-509
Sec. 27	January 1, 2015	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Potential	None	More than
	Revenue Loss		400,000
Secretary of the State	GF - Potential	Minimal	Minimal
	Cost		
Secretary of the State	GF - Savings	None	Minimal

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill eliminates fees associated with the termination or dissolution of certain business entities and allows the Secretary of the State (SOTS) to administratively dissolve certain business entities that fail to file an annual report.

Fees for terminations, dissolutions, and withdrawals range from \$20 to \$120 with an average of \$73. During calendar years 2011 and 2012 the Secretary of the State processed approximately 10,000 transactions per year that would be impacted by the bill. Though the revenue loss to the SOTS is dependent upon both the number and type of affected transactions, it is anticipated to be greater than \$400,000 in FY 16.

In addition, the SOTS is anticipated to realize minimal savings, starting FY 16 and continuing annually thereafter, associated with a reduction in check processing arising from the elimination of certain fees for dissolution of business entities. The SOTS may also realize minimal savings through a reduction of notices sent to delinquent businesses if granted the authority to administratively dissolve certain business entities.

The provisions in the bill that allow SOTS to administratively dissolve certain business entities that fail to file an annual report are anticipated to result in potential minimal costs for SOTS in FY 15 and annually thereafter.

House "A" delayed the effective date of the elimination of certain fees resulting in the fiscal impact identified above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis sHB 5489 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTEGRITY OF THE BUSINESS REGISTRY.

SUMMARY:

This bill:

- 1. subjects various business entities to the secretary of the state's administrative dissolution or similar procedure for failing to file an annual report,
- 2. makes changes regarding the notice of final action the secretary sends in the administrative dissolution and similar procedures for different business entities and authorizes a limited liability partnership (LLP) to seek reinstatement,
- 3. makes changes to the secretary's procedures to revoke the certificate of authority to conduct business in Connecticut for foreign stock and nonstock corporations,
- 4. eliminates a number of fees for business entities filing documents with the secretary to terminate their existence or cease doing business in Connecticut, and
- 5. requires various business entities to include their email addresses on certain documents filed with the secretary.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

*House Amendment "A" makes the provisions eliminating certain fees and adding a fee for LLP reinstatement effective July 1, 2015 instead of January 1, 2015 and makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2015, except the provisions eliminating certain fees and adding a fee for LLP reinstatement are effective July 1, 2015.

FAILING TO FILE ANNUAL REPORTS

§§ 2 & 7 — Connecticut Stock and Nonstock Corporations

The bill allows the secretary of the state to administratively dissolve (1) Connecticut stock corporations that fail to file an annual report for more than one year past its due date and (2) Connecticut nonstock corporations that fail to file an annual report for more than two years. The secretary can currently use this authority when a corporation fails to maintain a registered agent as required by law or the agent cannot be found.

As under current law for this process, (1) the secretary must send a notice of administrative dissolution by registered or certified mail to the corporation's principal office as shown on the secretary's records, (2) the corporation has three months to fix the deficiency, and (3) the secretary files a certificate of administrative dissolution stating the corporation is administratively dissolved because of its default.

§§ 4-5 & 9-10 — Foreign Stock and Nonstock Corporations

The bill makes a foreign stock corporation's failure to file its annual report with the secretary grounds for revoking its certificate of authority to transact business in Connecticut. It subjects a foreign nonstock corporation to revocation proceedings upon failure to file the report, rather than when the report is 60 days past due as required by current law. By law, the secretary can revoke the certificates of these corporations for several specified reasons. The bill alters current law's revocation procedures and applies them to revocations for failing to file an annual report (see below).

§§ 12 & 15 — Limited Partnerships (LP)

The bill allows the secretary to cancel a Connecticut LP by forfeiture for failing to file an annual report for one year past its due date. The secretary can currently use this procedure for an LP that fails to

maintain a statutory agent.

As under current law, the secretary must send notice by registered or certified mail to the LP that its rights and powers are prima facie forfeited within three months after the notice's mailing. If the LP does not fix the deficiency, the secretary files a certificate of cancellation by forfeiture.

For foreign LPs, the bill makes failing to file an annual report grounds for revoking its certificate to do business in Connecticut. Existing law gives the secretary this authority based on an LP's wilful misrepresentation of a material fact in a document, exceeding its statutory authority, or failing to have an agent for service of process for at least 60 days.

As under current law, the secretary must give at least 20 days written notice to the foreign LP by registered or certified mail to its last-known address. The bill eliminates an option of notice by mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing. If the foreign LP does not correct the problem, the secretary revokes the LP's certificate.

§§ 18 & 20 — Limited Liability Companies (LLC)

The bill allows the secretary to dissolve an LLC by forfeiture if it has not filed an annual report more than one year since its due date. The LLC has three months to file the report or the secretary files a certificate of dissolution by forfeiture.

The law already allows such a dissolution for failing to maintain a statutory agent for service of process. As under current law, the secretary can mail notice of this reason for dissolution by registered or certified mail. The bill no longer allows notice by mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing.

For a foreign LLC, the bill allows revocation for failing to file an annual report. Currently, this procedure applies to wilful misrepresentation of a material fact in a document, exceeding its statutory authority, or failing to have an agent for service of process

for at least 60 days. As under current law, the secretary must give at least 20 days written notice to the foreign LLC by registered or certified mail to its last-known address. The bill eliminates an option of notice by mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing.

§§ 23 & 25 — LLPs

Under current law, the secretary must notify an LLP of proceedings to revoke a certificate of registration if the LLP is more than three months past its annual report's due date. The bill instead (1) makes the revocation discretionary and (2) requires that the report be past due for more than one year before proceedings begin. The law already allows such a revocation for failing to have a statutory agent for service of process.

As under current law, the secretary can notify the LLP by registered or certified mail and the LLP has three months from mailing to fix the problem or the secretary revokes its certificate. The bill eliminates the option of notice by mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing.

Existing law already subjects a foreign LLP to revocation procedures for failing to file an annual report. The bill eliminates the option for the secretary to send notice of these proceedings by mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION OR SIMILAR PROCEDURE

By law, if a business entity does not cure the deficiency that triggered a notice of dissolution or similar procedures, the dissolution or procedure becomes final. The bill (1) makes a number of similar changes that apply to the notices the secretary must send to these businesses and (2) applies them to dissolutions or procedures based on failing to file an annual report. The changes vary depending on the type of entity.

Various Entities

For a stock or nonstock corporation administrative dissolution, LP

certificate of cancellation, LLC dissolution by forfeiture, or LLP revocation of certificate of registration, current law requires the secretary to mail a copy of the certificate of dissolution or other termination document to the entity's last-known principal office. The bill eliminates requirements that the secretary (1) use registered or certified mail and (2) publish notice of the dissolution in two successive issues of the *Connecticut Law Journal*. Instead, the bill requires her to post the notices on her website for 60 days (§§ 2, 7, 12, 18, and 23).

For foreign LPs, foreign LLCs, and foreign registered LLPs, the law already requires simply mailing the notice, and the bill additionally requires posting it on the secretary's website for 60 days (§§ 15, 20 & 25).

For an LLP subject to a proceeding for failing to maintain a statutory agent, the law allows the secretary to send notice by registered or certified mail. The bill eliminates the option to send it by mail evidenced by a certificate of mailing.

Foreign Stock and Nonstock Corporations

By law, the secretary can revoke the certificate for these corporations if (1) the corporation is 60 days past due on license fees, franchise taxes, or penalties; (2) the corporation does not have a registered agent or office in the state or does not inform the secretary of changes regarding its agent for at least 60 days; (3) an incorporator, director, officer, or agent signs a document for filing with the secretary knowing it is false in a material respect; or (4) the secretary receives an authenticated certificate from the corporation's state of incorporation indicating its dissolution or merger into another entity. As described above, the secretary can also revoke a certificate for failing to file an annual report.

The bill alters the procedures applicable to all of these revocations in the following ways.

 Instead of serving written notice (which could be by a proper officer or other person lawfully empowered to do so, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested), the bill requires the secretary to provide notice by registered or certified mail sent to the principal office's address as shown in the records.

- 2. The bill gives the corporation 90 days after mailing, rather than 60 days from service as under current law, to correct the problem.
- 3. After this period, instead of serving a copy of the revocation certificate, the bill requires mailing a copy to the corporation's last-known principal office address and posting a notice on the secretary's website for 60 days.

LLP REINSTATEMENT

The bill allows a registered LLP whose status is revoked by the secretary as described above to file for reinstatement. The bill requires changing the LLPs name through an amendment to the certificate of LLP if its name is no longer available. The LLP must (1) file a certificate of reinstatement with the secretary; (2) pay all penalties, forfeitures, and reinstatement fees; (3) file an annual report for the current year; and (4) appoint a statutory agent for service of process. The bill makes reinstatement effective upon filing the certificate, allows the status as an LLP to commence, and reinvests the LLP with its statutory rights and powers (§ 27).

The bill adds a \$120 fee for a domestic or foreign LLP filing a certificate of reinstatement (§ 21).

ELIMINATED FILING FEES

The bill eliminates fees for certain filings with the secretary of the state, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Entity Filing Fees Eliminated by the Bill

Bill §	Entity	Document	Filing Fee Eliminated
1	Stock corporation	Certificate of dissolution	\$50
1	Foreign stock corporation	Application for and certificate of withdrawal	100
6	Nonstock corporation	Certificate of dissolution	20
6	Foreign nonstock corporation	Application for and certificate of withdrawal	40
14	LP	Certificate of cancellation	60
16	LLC	Articles of dissolution by resolution, articles of dissolution by expiration, or a judicial decree of dissolution	50
16	Foreign LLC	Application for and certificate of withdrawal	120
21	LLP	Renunciation of status	50
21	Foreign LLP	Withdrawal of certificate of authority	120
26	Statutory trust	Certificate of cancellation	120

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The bill requires business entities to include email addresses, if they have one, on the following documents filed with the secretary's office:

- 1. a foreign stock corporation's application for certificate of authority to transact business in Connecticut (§ 3),
- 2. a foreign nonstock corporation's application for certificate of authority to conduct affairs in Connecticut (§ 8),
- 3. an LP certificate (§ 11),
- 4. a foreign LP's application for registration (§ 13),
- 5. an LLC's articles of organization (§ 17),
- 6. a foreign LLC's application to register to do business in Connecticut (§ 19),

- 7. an LLP's certificate of registration (§ 22), and
- 8. a foreign registered LLP's certificate of authority (§ 24).

BACKGOUND

Related Bill

sSB 411 (File 541), passed by the Senate, includes a provision on the effect of an LLC's or LP's reinstatement after administrative dissolution or cancellation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 32 Nay 0 (04/01/2014)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/25/2014)